

What Games of the Old Men?

Everybody knows the tendency that certain people have to disappear. It has been repeatedly asserted in countries where they use donkeys that no one ever sees a definite sign. Again, that famous query, put by a lady during an "awful pause" as her own words were, "What becomes of all the pins?" took home to every feminine mind, offering boundless fields of conjecture. Mysterious, however, as the ultimate fate of pins undoubtedly is, it may be argued that their very smallness favors their disappearance, but this can not be pleaded about old men, and the question we raise to-day is, "What becomes in this city of the old or elderly men? Old men we see in numbers, but not old men. Of course, we know that in bank parlors, trust companies' offices, and among the learned professions a certain number of elderly gentlemen may be found, but we are speaking now of the many. Take, for example, waiters. How many graying waiters does any restaurant frequenter recall in this city? In the street cars there are about half a dozen conductors, well-known to every one because they are white-headed, and hence so rare, while the drivers are always men under fifty, apparently—seldom, indeed, as much as forty. Walk about the streets, notice the men employed by the express companies; you will find them young. The laborers, the longshoremen, the men employed at the ferries, are also mostly young. Go into stores; nine out of ten of the salesmen are young. The hotel clerks are young, and so for the most part are the barkeepers. Doctors say that these latter seldom get beyond fifty. Constant nipping undermines their health; and hotel men, too, as a class, do not live long, though there are notable exceptions. This absence of elderly men is to a stranger a notable feature of New York, and it would be interesting to know its cause. Is it that the conditions of life here are exceptionally exhausting, and that, except in the comparatively rare cases where circumstances or constitution are especially favorable, only a low average of age is attained? Or is it that hundreds of men emigrate hence after a few years to settle in other parts of the country, returning, perhaps, at forty to places from whence they came at twenty? It is notorious that Parisians are for the most part not born in Paris, and probably but a limited number of people in this city to-day were born in it. The infant mortality is, we know, enormous, but how about the mortality between forty and fifty? It would be interesting to learn if that be abnormally large as compared with other places; and if so, what is the prevailing cause of death. Very instructive tables were published in England some years ago showing the average of life among different vocations. It is believed by many that brokers and others in business life live here, as there, a much shorter time than professional men. Thoroughly trustworthy data on this point would be received with great interest.—*N. Y. Times.*

A Turkish Fast.

Before closing this chapter of Turkish gossip, I can not refrain from giving a young Moslem official's account of his infraction of the great fast. "The day was very sultry," said he. "I had been at work and was dying with thirst. I resolved to myself that I would slip out and sneak into some watershop in some out-of-the-way corner and get a glass of water, fast or no fast. The water was there in crystal and ice; my tongue was burning. I was just going into the shop when a man crossed the street and stood in front of me. I knew he was a detective, and so I went away. I hunted up another watershop in an out-of-the-way place, and lo, another detective appeared. I hurried past and a third time found a watershop, and again it was watched by a spy. Then I said to myself: 'Here we have a government that takes revenue from greasy shops and gambling-houses. And this government sets itself up to enforce pious observances. It puts its spies by the watershop lest some poor wretch may drink in fast-time. A fig for such piety. I was going to have five paras' worth of sin. If this is what piety means I will go to Pera this minute and get a hundred paras' worth of sin in the shape of ice-cream.' I went. I sat in the darkest corner of a great hall and had my ice-cream. I had just finished about half of it when I saw peering in at the window a man with his rosary in his hand, and I recognized him as one of those meddling pious people who go about as a work of religious duty to find erring Moslems and warn them of the consequences of breaking the fast. I crawled the other half of the ice-cream into my mouth at once and bolted out of a side door. If you have never had your mouth stuffed with ice-cream so stiff that you can't open your jaws, you can have no conception of what I suffered. But I had my revenge on this government for making money out of vice and then putting guards over the water-ings. I broke my fast in spite of them, and nobody found it out."—*Constantinople Letter.*

A Medical Curiosity.

Jean Condoist has been brought to Paris as a medical curiosity from the Haute Gagne. According to a medical contributor to a Parisian contemporary, this youth, aged nineteen, took a start on the 17th of May, 1881, being three inches high, and found one morning that he had grown an inch. Every week since then he has registered himself, and on the 14th of September this human beanstalk had grown nearly five inches; he grew five inches more before the 20th of January, 1882, and seven more before March 15, and he now stands seven feet ten inches. All this has been accompanied by great pains in the back, and he stoops considerably; but since last June it is his legs only that have grown, and his feet are already twenty-four inches long.

"Pa, what is a pessimist, and what is an optimist?" A pessimist, my son, is one who takes the surplus kittens, just after they are born, and chloroforms them. The optimist is one who lets the kittens grow up to live a wretched, starving life; to be tortured continually by boys and other thoughtless animals, and to be finally killed with bricks and left to rot on the streets."—*Exchange.*

HOME AND FARM.

—Stoves may be kept looking nicely for some time by rubbing them thoroughly with newspaper every morning.

—Over 9,000 new farms were started on Government lands in Minnesota and Dakota during the year ended June 30, 1882.—*Chicago Journal.*

—If you wish to clean your spice-mill, you will find that by grinding a handful of raw rice through it this can be accomplished. The particles of spice and pepper or coffee will not adhere to it after this rice is ground through it.—*N. Y. Post.*

—Save labor by sowing more grass seed. Have more grass than can be eaten in summer, so that there will be plenty in fall, winter, and spring. Have grass at all times when there is no snow to cover it. The cheapest beef and butter are made from feed gathered by the cattle themselves. Scarce corn has taught many the value of grass for summering hogs this season.—*James Wilson.*

—Professor Cook suggests as a practical remedy for the grape-vine hopper, that, so soon as these pests become dormant in winter the leaves under the vines be raked up and burned. This is best done on a cold day and before the vines are laid down for the winter. The theory is that the hoppers can not resist dampness and collect under the fallen leaves for protection.—*Detroit Post.*

—Cold Pie for Picnic: Boil a chicken or rabbit and cut the flesh as thin as possible. Then boil two ounces of macaroni, the same quantity of Parmesan cheese, grated, a little finely-chopped parsley, half a pint of cream, some pepper and salt. Line a basin with a good paste sprinkled with vermicelli, bake an hour, and serve with or without a brown sauce. Cold poultry or game may be used instead of something purposely cooked.—*Boston Transcript.*

—A foreign paper claims that a full feed of hay to horses, following the feeding of concentrated food, is wasteful for the reason that it crowds the first out of the stomach before proper digestion has been accomplished. And so, in order to secure best results, hay should be fed at first and the concentrated food afterward, which leaves it to become fully digested, with no danger of being crowded away or out of the performance of its desired purpose.

—Canary seed is scarce—the supply in the United States will barely last fifteen months, and no more can be gathered for a year. Abroad, too, the supply is scanty. England is shipping canary seed to Spain—sending coals to Newcastle—and Spain and Southern France are calling upon Smyrna and the Levant. Switzerland, too, is short, and Italy has no surplus. The owners of canary birds should therefore be economical in feeding their pets.—*Chicago Times.*

—A pretty and cheap work-basket may be made of a heavy pasteboard box. Sew some stout cloth around it to keep it firm and in place, then cover it with any material that you have, silk, velvet, or worsted goods, or better and more serviceable, dark-colored drilling. This cover may be shirred, plaited or put on straight. The lining may be of any bright color that will harmonize with the outside. For a handle use a piece of pasteboard one inch wide, supported by an old hoop; cover this with the material used for the outside and sew it to each side of the box. Pockets should be put in each end, and a little box for buttons made stationary is very convenient. There should also be a loop for scissors, and a pin-cushion and needle-book.—*St. Louis Globe.*

—Cultivating the Black Walnut.

The attention of the public is being called to the increasing demand and decreasing supply of that valuable timber, black walnut, and farmers in localities where this growth is indigenous to the soil are being urged to plant and cultivate it.

Mr. W. H. Ragan, Secretary of the Indiana Horticultural Society, in a paper read before the annual convention, gave, among other arguments in favor of black walnut, the following: "It is a worthy variety for artificial groves and timber-belts; it is comparatively free from the attacks of deprecatory insects; it grows rapidly and bears nuts at an early age, and it stands without a peer for furniture and interior decorations."

Regarding the planting and culture of the black walnut, Mr. Ragan said: "Prepare your ground by breaking and harrowing in the fall. Furrow it off each way as you would for corn, except that the rows should be about seven feet apart. Take the nuts fresh from the trees, it is not necessary that they should be hulled, placing two nuts in each crossing. This is to insure getting a good stand. The nuts should be covered very shallow, just enough earth to hide them. In the spring the land should be furrowed off midway between the rows of nuts, and the spaces planted with corn or potatoes. Cultivate as you would a corn crop, by cross plowing, being careful to give the young trees a fair chance and good clean culture. The second spring thin out your plants to one tree to the hill. If there are spaces entirely missing they may be filled by transplanting from the hills containing duplicates. The second and perhaps the third year it will pay to cultivate corn between the rows, after which the trees should be regularly cultivated until they fully occupy the ground so as to keep down by their shade all weeds and grass.

"The period at which cultivation may be discontinued can not be definitely stated, as much will depend on the character of the seasons and quality of the soil. Of course seven feet each way will be too close for permanent trees, but as they will protect each other when small they will protect each other when grown, and make much better growth it is preferable to have them closely planted. When they begin to crowd, the alternate tree in each row may be removed. The trees thus removed will be of sufficient size to be useful in various ways on the farm. A second thinning will in a few years be necessary, taking the alternate tree the other way. Your permanent trees will now stand fourteen feet apart each way, a sufficient distance for a number of years, though not for large trees, but the thinning will always pay a large per cent. on the value of the ground occupied."—*N. Y. World.*

Duty of the Locomotive Engineer.

A railway man predicts that before many years every locomotive drawing a passenger train on a busy railroad will have a pilot, whose sole business will be to watch the signals, switches, bridges, crossings, and so on, while the care and control of the engine will be the exclusive work of the engineer. At present, he says, the engineer may be trying his water gauge or doing any one of half a hundred necessary things, when he ought to be looking at a signal. When trains were fewer and speed less, an engineer was all that was needed; as the speed is increased and the demands upon the engineer's attention are multiplied, he has more than he can do. He must be relieved by a new man, in front of or over the engine, who will have nothing to do with the engine, but will watch the road and direct the engineer, as the pilot of a steamer does, by a system of signals.

Any suggestion calculated to increase the safety of railway traveling can not fail to receive consideration. It is safe to predict, however, that the foregoing prediction will never be fulfilled, for the sufficient reason that to place a second person between the observation of a signal and the manipulation of the engine would be to delay action and invite disaster. With his hand upon the throttle, the engineer can do the thing required in any emergency in less time than it would take to tell another to do it, however perfect the system of signaling; and with a train running a hundred feet a second, a fraction of a second's delay may be fatal to a hundred passengers.

On well regulated roads the engineer's assistant now does substantially everything required in the care of the engine, leaving the engineer free to keep constant watch of the road. The proposed pilot could do no more, and would be less fitly placed to secure the instant performance of the duty the occasion might demand.—*Scientific American.*

A Faithful Messenger.

John Neely, who has been in the employ of the New York Central Railroad for thirty-one years as treasurer's messenger, and who has carried many hundred millions of dollars from the company's offices to the bank, died on Sunday last in his dwelling in the Grand Central Depot, aged fifty-three years. His face was known to almost every banker and broker in the city. He used often to say that if robbers attacked him on his way to the bank he would cheerfully lay down his life in protecting the money intrusted to him. He took the money down town in a wagon, and a driver managed the horse while Neely watched the money bags. The driver was armed, and Neely also. He often carried over \$500,000, and he never cost the railroad company a cent through carelessness or loss.—*Chicago Journal.*

—When a young man kisses his girl good-night about 1:30 a. m., he may have nearly a mile to walk before reaching his home, and he supposes, who, he supposes, jumps into bed and is fast asleep ten minutes after he leaves the house. He doesn't know that she must first fish seventy-nine hair-pins out of her head, one at a time, and twist her hair up into bits of paper so that it will crimp nicely next day, and that he is in bed snoring, before she turns off the gas. If he was aware of this fact, perhaps he would leave earlier.—*The Judge.*

—All the funny things in the administration of police-court justice—it is commonly termed "justice"—do not happen in Detroit. A few days ago in Toronto the magistrate asked of a prisoner: "Were you on the drunk, yesterday?" "No, sir," replied the prisoner, "I was on the horse-car." The reply cleared him. In another case the wrong prisoner was led from the bull-pen. "I have discharged another man for your crime," said the justice, "so now I'll have to discharge you for his." Exeunt omnes.—*Chicago Herald.*

—The skies were never dark enough nor starless enough, the storm was never fierce enough nor wild enough, the quick bolts of heaven were never lurid enough, and the arrows of slander never flew thick enough to drive a noble woman from her husband's side.—*Bob Ingersoll.*

—Crazed by the misconduct of her two daughters, a woman chopped off one of her hands at Parkville, Conn., striking not less than a dozen blows with a hatchet.—*Boston Post.*

THE MARKETS.

	NEW YORK, Sept. 26, 1882.	
CATTLE—Exports.....	\$100	\$114.00
CATTLE—Middling.....	5.00	5.12 1/2
CATTLE—Choice.....	5.00	5.12 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2 Red.....	1.06	1.07
WHEAT—No. 3 Red.....	1.05	1.07
CORN—No. 2.....	.72	.73
CORN—No. 3.....	.71	.72
OATS—Western Mixed.....	.32	.33
PORK—Standard Mess.....	21.25	21.50
COTTON—Middling.....	11.00	11 1/2
BEEVES—Exports.....	6.00	6.50
BEEVES—Choice.....	6.00	6.50
Native Cows.....	2.50	4.00
Texas Cows.....	3.00	4.50
HOGS—Common to Select.....	7.25	9.00
SHEEP—Fair to Choice.....	3.00	4.00
FLOUR—XXX to Choice.....	4.00	5.00
WHEAT—No. 2 Winter.....	.85	.94
OATS—No. 2.....	.88	.89
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	.68	.69
OATS—No. 2.....	.88	.89
RYE—No. 2.....	.55	.56
TOBACCO—Dark Leaf.....	5.00	5.00
TOBACCO—Light Leaf.....	7.50	8.50
HAY—Choice Timothy.....	15.00	16.00
BUTTER—Choice Dairy.....	21.00	24.00
WHEAT—No. 2.....	1.06	1.07
PORK—Standard Mess.....	22.00	22.50
BACON—Clear Rib.....	15.00	15 1/2
LARD—Prime Steam.....	12.00	12 1/2
WOOL—Tub-washed, medium.....	33.00	35.00
Unwashed.....	22.00	25.00
CATTLE—Exports.....	6.50	7.00
CATTLE—Good to choice.....	7.50	8.00
FLOUR—Winter.....	6.00	7.00
Spring.....	5.00	6.00
WHEAT—No. 2 Spring.....	1.03	1.04
CORN—No. 2.....	.63	.64
CORN—No. 3.....	.62	.63
RYE.....	.58	.59
PORK—New Mess.....	21.00	21.50
CATTLE—Native Cows.....	4.75	5.75
CORN—White.....	7.00	7.50
HOGS—Sales at.....	7.50	8.50
WHEAT—No. 2.....	1.03	1.04
OATS—No. 2.....	.73	.74
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	.61	.62
OATS.....	.31	.32
FLOUR—High Grades.....	4.75	5.50
CORN—White.....	7.00	7.50
OATS—Western.....	4.25	4.75
HAY—Choice.....	21.00	22.75
PORK—Mess.....	22.50	23.75
BACON—Clear Rib.....	15.00	15 1/2
COTTON—Middling.....	11.00	12 1/2

A cheerful face, says the *Gorman-town Telegraph*, is nearly as good for an invalid as healthy weather. To make a sick man think he is dying, all that is necessary is to look half dead yourself. Hope and despair are as catching as contagious complaints. Always look unshiny, therefore, whether you feel so or not.

We like St. Jacobs Oil, and observe too that the Rev. Bishop Gilmore indorses the remedy.—*Baltimore (Md.) Catholic Mirror.*

Why should Arabi Bey be the favorite of the "Arabian Nights"? Because he is one of the Arabian Nights.

In the New York Herald we lately observed mention of the speedy cure of Thaddeus Davis, Esq., of the great ink firm, 127 William street, New York, of rheumatic gout by St. Jacobs Oil.—*St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press.*

Pittsburgh has a pile factory. The piles made are of a dark color, so as not to show dirt.—*N. O. Picayune.*

INVISIBLE POISON.

How it Works Its Way Into the Body and How to Counteract it.

One of the great scourges of the present year in all parts of America has been malaria. This is a trouble so treacherous in its nature and so dangerous in its results as to justify cause apprehension wherever it has appeared. But there are so many erroneous ideas upon the subject that a few words are in order at a time when people are subject to malarial influences.

Malaria, which means simply bad air, is the common name of a class of diseases which arise from spores of decaying vegetable matter, thrown off from stagnant pools or piles of vegetation undergoing decomposition. These spores when inhaled with the breath or taken into the system with water soon enter the blood and germinating there find a foothold, whereby the whole system is poisoned and the various functions disordered. When the germ theory of disease was first advanced it was supposed that these spores were of animal nature, and like the bacteria in diphtheria were propagated in the blood, but they are now conceived to be of vegetable origin, like the fungi found on decaying wood or in cellars. The source of this state of the air is generally swamps or stagnant pools, which, partially dried by the hot sun, send forth vapors loaded with this malarial poison. These vapors descend to the earth in the night, cooled by the loss of temperature, and breathed by sleepers are readily inhaled. Hence persons living near stagnant pools or marshes are liable to be afflicted with chills and fever, and such localities are never healthy, though they are more so when the streams flowing into them are pure, and also when the water is changed and the stagnant pools, which are generally swamps or stagnant pools, which, partially dried by the hot sun, send forth vapors loaded with this malarial poison. These vapors descend to the earth in the night, cooled by the loss of temperature, and breathed by sleepers are readily inhaled. 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